

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 22-42 are pending with claims 28-42 having been withdrawn.

By the above amendments, the claim objections as well as the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, have been addressed and are believed to have been overcome. Withdrawal of the objections and rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 22-26 are rejected in view of Mills and claim 27 is rejected in view of Mills and Sacker.

Support for the above amendments can at least be found in Figs. 8A, 9 and 14 and the accompanying portions of the specification.

As now recited in amended claim 22, the chest lead electrodes, formed of a conductive material, are capable of acquiring a heart potential from a chest part under a condition of less myoelectric influence, regardless of individual differences in heart position, by forming the chest lead electrodes which cover from a body surface around a fourth rib to a body surface around a sixth rib when the examinee wears the garment, and capable of delivering the potential to a cardiogram analysis device, the chest lead electrodes being arranged on the garment at least six positions from a near presternal region of the examinee to approximately a left chest lateral part.

Independent claim 23 now recites that the garment comprises chest lead electrodes, formed of a conductive material capable of acquiring a heart potential from a chest part when an examinee wears the garment, each of the chest lead electrodes having a length of more than 5 cm and less than 30 cm along a body axis, the chest lead electrodes being arranged from a front center of the garment to a left side of the garment.

Independent claim 24 now recites that the garment comprises chest lead electrodes, formed of a conductive material, capable of acquiring a heart potential from a chest part under a condition of less myoelectric influence, regardless of individual differences in heart position, by forming the chest lead electrodes which cover a body surface on a chest part when the examinee wears the garment and capable of delivering the potential to a cardiogram analysis device, the chest lead electrodes being arranged on the garment between a near presternal region of the examinee and a left chest lateral part, each of the chest lead electrodes extending along a body axis.

Neither Mills nor Sacker teach, suggest or disclose the claimed combination of features.

Figs. 1-4 of Mills disclose a garment and electrode. As illustrated below,

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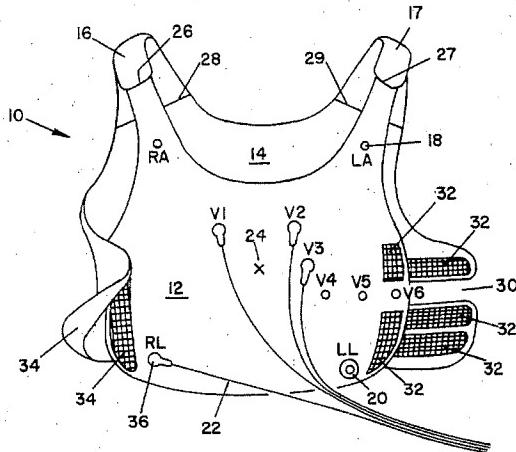


FIG. 1

Mills shpws a vest with precordial electrodes generally referred to V.sub.1, V.sub.2, V.sub.3, V.sub.4, V.sub.5 and V.sub.6. Figs. 2, 3 and 4 of Mills illustrate the electrode tip.

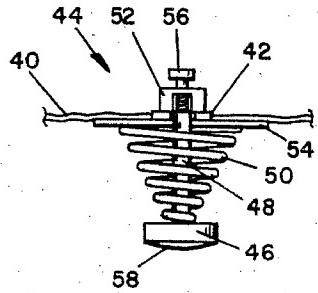


FIG. 2

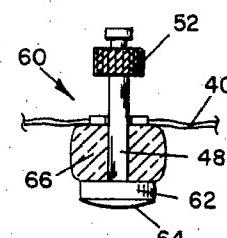


FIG. 3

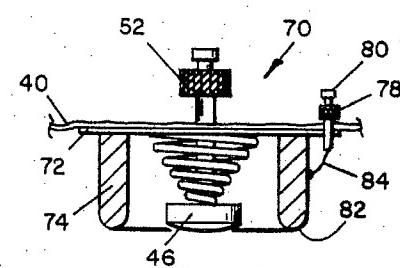


FIG. 4

The electrode tip (numeral 62 in Fig. 3 and numeral 42 in Figs. 1 and 2) of Mills is not extending along the body axis, but is round in shape – therefore not extending along the body axis.

Unlike one exemplary advantage of the claimed technology, in the garment of the Mills, it is necessary to fix the position of the electrode against the skin of the patient while paying particular attention to the position in the longitudinal direction.

Mills also fails to disclose that each of the chest lead electrodes have a length of more than 5 cm and less than 30 cm along the body axis, the chest lead electrodes being arranged from a front center of the garment to a left side of the garment as claimed. As is clear from the above, the electrodes in Mills are round or disc-shaped – not elongated.

While the Examiner has correctly pointed out that Mills' electrodes are disposed along lateral direction of body axis between V1 and V6, Mills is at least deficient in relation to the above features.

Sackner also fails to teach, suggest or disclose the above mentioned claimed features. Rather, Sackner discloses "More particularly, the present invention includes a single sheet nonconductive substrate, having incorporated therein a plurality of electrically conductive strips or wires. Each of strip includes a first end portion or receptor end adapted for electrical connection with the skin of the patient for receiving electrical impulses." (See column 3 lines 31 to 39)

This clearly indicates that the strips 20 to 29 of Sackner are electrically connected only at their first ends. Therefore, the sheet disclosed in Sackner does not have the advantage of accurately obtaining cardiogram waveforms regardless of variations of the constitution of each examinee (variation of the heart position) and variations of the heart position due to movement of the examinees. In the garment of Sackner, it is necessary to fix the position of the electrode against the skin of the patient while paying attention to longitudinal direction by using the positioning means. (See Column 3, lines 44 to 57).

At least based on the above, Applicant submits the claims are distinguishable from the references.

With all objections and rejections having been overcome, Applicant respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance. A prompt notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account number 19-1970 any fees under 37 CFR § 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby petitioned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 31 May '12

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